

Watershed - Program Manager Message

Thank you for your interest in watershed resources of the Custer Gallatin National Forest! These habitats and the animals living in them provide diverse opportunities and values for those who visit the Forest. The Custer Gallatin watershed team is proud to steward habitats on some of the most iconic landscapes in the country.



Jake Chaffin

The Custer Gallatin National Forest's watershed program is currently comprised of seven permanent staff. Jake Chaffin is the Watershed Program Manager, and also serves as aquatic ecologist for the Forest's East Zone (Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts). Clint Sestrich is the Central Zone Fisheries Biologist (Gardiner, Yellowstone, and Beartooth Ranger Districts). Bruce Roberts is the West Zone Fisheries Biologist (Bozeman and Hebgen Lake Ranger Districts). Dale White and Andy Efta are Hydrologists and Tom Keck is Soils Scientist for the Forest. Bryce Hancock is Hydrology Technician, including water rights and data management lead for the Forest.

Our program focuses on restoring and maintaining the Forest's intrinsic watershed values and recreational fisheries for current and future generations. As such, our program emphasizes integrated ecosystem management, effective partnership development, and public information and education programs.

We actively partner with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana State University, Yellowstone National Park, Trout Unlimited, American Fisheries Society, and many local conservation groups, industries and private individuals. These partnerships take many forms, from collaboration on habitat restoration and native species conservation to accessible fishing opportunity development.

We encourage your questions, comments, suggestions...and partnerships!

Jake Chaffin, Watershed Program Manager